

## **June MBPAC Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**

Meeting took place at C&O Canal National Historic Park Facility, 205 W. Potomac St., Williamsport

Meeting was called to order at 10 A.M.

In attendance: Committee Members and Guests.

Chairman Brenner opened the meeting followed by the approval of the April meeting minutes.

Chairman Brenner recognized former MBPAC member, Dick Cushwa, for his years of service.

Kevin Brandt, C&O Canal National Park Superintendent gave a presentation that introduced the group to the C&O Canal and its park. Every 4<sup>th</sup> grader in Washington County comes to the center for educational/classroom based programming. He also mentioned that 2021 would be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the park and they will be looking to make major upgrades to the facility.

David Brickley gave a presentation on the September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail and walked the MBPAC through the trail sights across the northeast.

Bill Atkinson, Maryland Department of Planning, representing the Appalachian Regional Commission's staff support presented on trail and tourism progress in western Maryland. Discussion centered around the economic impact of cyclists, particularly on hotels (B&Bs), restaurants and florists.

New MBPAC member, Steven Green talked about the economic impact of cycling in Garrett County surrounding the annual events, Savage Man ([www.savageman.com](http://www.savageman.com)) and the Garrett County Gran Fondo (<http://www.garrettcountygranfondo.org/>). Both events have a tremendous impact to Garrett County in hotel nights booked amongst other measures.

New MBPAC member, Amanda Fenstermaker shared her experiences in economic impact as well, detailing the impact of cycling in Dorchester County. Particularly, the economic impact that comes from the Iron Man Competition Company that purchased the Eagleman competition. Dorchester County has also developed a comprehensive cycling guide for tourists that has been very helpful.

There was brief discussion about the MARC bike cars and the potential for running a bike car on the Martinsburg line over the weekends and alternating destinations (Frederick/West Virginia). MARC leadership feels that this can happen as soon as July 1<sup>st</sup>. Members and audience members gave positive feedback to MDOT and further discussions will occur. Chairman Brenner mentioned this may be a good opportunity for healthy competition amongst the two final destinations.

Greg Hinchliffe and the Snow Removal/Pedestrian working group talked about their progress on learning best practices when it comes to snow removal and requested the membership read the

Walk Boston publication on the subject as well as the Institute for Public Administration report referencing Delaware.

Chairman Brenner closed the meeting by announcing some upcoming events:

- July 1<sup>st</sup> - Hatem Bridge Opening
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – MaCo panel discussion in Ocean City (not an official meeting)
- October 5<sup>th</sup> – Walk Maryland Day - Meghan Ames of the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene

Meeting was adjourned at noon.